



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
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**A REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) FOR THE  
PROPOSED SICELO SUBSTATION AND POWER LINE IN THE MEYERTON  
AREA, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

For:

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## SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was appointed by MSA Geoservices (Pty) Ltd to conduct a heritage impact assessment relating to cultural heritage resources for the proposed Sicelo substation and power line. This is situated at Meyerton in the Gauteng Province. Four alternatives for the route were surveyed.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed three no sites of cultural heritage significance. The area is largely disturbed by past human activities such as agriculture, housing and industries and therefore this comes as no surprise.

**From a heritage point of view there is no specific preference for any of the proposed route alternatives. Whichever alternative is decided on, no mitigation is required.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was appointed by MSA Geoservices (Pty) Ltd to conduct a heritage impact assessment (HIA) relating to cultural heritage resources for the proposed Sicelo substation and 88 kV power line. This is situated at Meyerton in the Gauteng Province.

Four alternatives for the route were surveyed. The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area.

GPS co-ordinates:

	Alternative 1		Alternative 2		Alternative 3		Alternative 4	
	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
1	26.587468	27.986854	26.587164	27.988095	26.588009	27.988998	26.587358	27.987580
2	26.585688	27.985312	26.585456	27.986609	26.588472	27.991454	26.585568	27.986171
3	26.583907	27.983771	26.583374	27.985641	26.586580	27.992634	26.583486	27.985204
4	26.581872	27.982716	26.581293	27.984673	26.584556	27.993742	26.581404	27.984238
5	26.579790	27.981748	26.579211	27.983705	26.582532	27.994851	26.579322	27.983272
6	26.577708	27.980781	26.577130	27.982737	26.580508	27.995959	26.577240	27.982305
7	26.575627	27.979813	26.575206	27.983255	26.578384	27.996795	26.575348	27.983139
8	26.573545	27.978846	26.573383	27.984734	26.576238	27.997568	26.573526	27.984618
9	26.571463	27.977878	26.571560	27.986212	26.574090	27.998335	26.571703	27.986097
10	26.569382	27.976911	26.569967	27.987886	26.571839	27.998385	26.570030	27.987703
11	26.567300	27.975944	26.568315	27.989509	26.569706	27.997639	26.568458	27.989394
12	26.565218	27.974976	26.566491	27.990986	26.567605	27.996724	26.566634	27.990870
13	26.563167	27.974839	26.564666	27.992463	26.565973	27.995042	26.564809	27.992347
14	26.561435	27.976447	26.563048	27.991553	26.564435	27.993207	26.563169	27.991697
15	26.559704	27.978055	26.561509	27.989719	26.562896	27.991372	26.561630	27.989862
16	26.557972	27.979664	26.560056	27.987911	26.561316	27.989594	26.560160	27.988067
17	26.556241	27.981272	26.558515	27.986079	26.559904	27.987730	26.558636	27.986223
18	26.554509	27.982880	26.556974	27.984247	26.558363	27.985898	26.557094	27.984391
19	26.552777	27.984488	26.555671	27.982243	26.556821	27.984066	26.555790	27.982388
20	26.551046	27.986096	26.553967	27.983383	26.555520	27.982061	26.554103	27.983257
21	26.549711	27.988093	26.552236	27.984991	26.553796	27.983542	26.552371	27.984865
22	26.548496	27.990207	26.550546	27.986641	26.552065	27.985150	26.550641	27.986475
23	26.547175	27.992189	26.549331	27.988754	26.550426	27.986849	26.549426	27.988589
24	26.545270	27.993495	26.548116	27.990868	26.549211	27.988963	26.548211	27.990702
25	26.543590	27.995169	26.546544	27.992540	26.547996	27.991077	26.546702	27.992452
26	26.541910	27.996844	26.544744	27.994019	26.546344	27.992651	26.544876	27.993887

27	26.540804	27.997939	26.543064	27.995693	26.544578	27.994184	26.543196	27.995562
28	26.539515	27.999745	26.541736	27.997389	26.542898	27.995859	26.541618	27.997243
29	26.538805	28.001945	26.540339	27.998400	26.541885	27.997574	26.540471	27.998269
30	26.538939	28.004008	26.539667	28.000416	26.540173	27.998565	26.539624	28.000226
31	26.539659	28.006056	26.538466	28.002527	26.539571	28.000629	26.538563	28.002362
32	26.538456	28.008178	26.539306	28.004567	26.538345	28.002735	26.539202	28.004408
33	26.537164	28.010457	26.539327	28.006642	26.539438	28.004767	26.539421	28.006476
34			26.538123	28.008764	26.539208	28.006852	26.538218	28.008598
35			26.537164	28.010457	26.538005	28.008974	26.537164	28.010457
36					26.537164	28.010457		

## 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

## 3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity (Appendix A). These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.

2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.
3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix B).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur. In this particular case access could not be gained to certain stretches of some alternatives due to impenetrable vegetation or locked gates.

#### **4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

##### **4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act**

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The national estate (see Appendix D) includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

### **Structures**

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.



### **Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites**

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

### **Human remains**

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place. Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

#### **4.2 The National Environmental Management Act**

This act (Act 107 of 1998) states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

### **5. METHODOLOGY**

#### **5.1 Survey of literature**

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

#### **5.2 Field survey**

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken by a physical survey via vehicle and on foot.

#### **5.3 Oral histories**

People from local communities are interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

## **5.4 Documentation**

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

## **5.5 Evaluation of Heritage sites**

The evaluation of heritage sites is done by using the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

## **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**

The area where the planned power line and substation will be erected is situated on the western side of the town of Meyerton in the Gauteng Province. Meyerton is located to the south of Johannesburg end to the north of Vereeniging (Figure 1-2). The specific farm influenced by the development is Kookfontein 545 IQ. The proposed 88 kV power line will run from the existing Kookfontein substation to the proposed Sicelo substation to the north thereof.

The environment of the area shows three specific characteristics (Figures 3-11). In the south, at alternative 1, 2 and 3 disturbance by agricultural fields is found. The central area, where all four alternatives are indicated, shows industrial development. In the north, at alternative 4 and the proposed site for the new Sicelo substation, formal and informal settlements are found. The area therefore is largely disturbed by recent human activities.

The topography of the area is reasonably flat with a slight fall to the south where a river is found. The vegetation cover in the remaining natural areas consists of grass which was reasonably low in certain areas and quite high in others during the time of the survey.





**Figure 3**      **Agricultural fields in the south at route alternative 1.**



**Figure 4**      **View of disturbed vegetation at route alternative 3, close to the freeway.**





**Figure 5** Railway line at route alternative 3.



**Figure 6** Eucalyptus bush at route alternative 3. These plantations sometimes contain graves, but none were identified here.



**Figure 7 Settlement along route alternative 4.**



**Figure 8 General view along route alternative 4.**



**Figure 9** General view along route alternative 1.



**Figure 10** General view along route alternative 3 between industries.





**Figure 11 View along route alternatives 1, 2 and 4 across wetland area, towards the Kookfontein substation.**

## **7. DISCUSSION**

During the survey no sites of cultural heritage significance was located in the area to be developed. However, there always is a possibility that more sites may become known later and that those need to be dealt with in accordance with the legislation discussed above. For this reason and in order to enable the reader to better understand possible archaeological and cultural features that may be unearthed during construction activities, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history.

### **7.1 Stone Age**

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

- Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
- Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
- Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

A few Stone Age sites were identified in the vicinity of the surveyed area by other scholars. This include at site at Drie Riviere, south of the area that was investigated. This site dates back to the Early Stone Age and specifically to the Lower Acheul, 1 million years ago. It is

associated with Homo Erectus (Korsman & Meyer 199: 93; Bergh 1999:4). Rock engravings have also been found close to Vereeniging in the past (Bergh 1999: 5).

Although no natural shelter was identified during the survey, the close proximity to the river makes the area very suitable for human habitation. The river would have provided access to game and water.

## **7.2 Iron Age**

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Previous research indicates 794 Iron Age sites in an area which includes Meyerton (Bergh 1999: 7). These date to the Late Iron Age. These would however be closer to hills and areas where natural shelters are found.

Again the presence of water and natural grass cover may have contributed to people settling in the surveyed area during the Iron Age. It is indicated that a Tswana group, the Khudu, inhabited the area previously as well as during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Bergh 1999: 10-11).

The subterranean presence of archaeological material is something that should however always be kept in mind. It also should be realized that the area may not have been surveyed before and therefore the possibility of finding new sites is always a reality.

The type of environment is suitable for human habitation. There is ample water sources and good grazing. One would therefore expect that Iron Age people may have utilized the area. This is the same reason why white settlers later on moved into this environment.

## **7.3 Historical Age**

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write.

The first white people to move into this area were the Voortrekkers during the 1830's and 1840's. The first white settlers settled in the Suikerbosrand area in 1839/40. This included the Vereeniging-Kliprivier area (Bergh 1999: 14-15).

The towns of Vereeniging and Meyerton were both established in 1892. By 1902 Kliprivier was proclaimed as a district, but by 1910 the area formed part of the Heidelberg district. In 1925 Vereeniging became a separate district, including the former district of Kliprivier (Bergh 1999: 21-24).

## 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. In the surveyed area no sites of cultural significance have been found.

The final recommendations are as follows:

- From a cultural historical perspective any of the four route alternatives may be used. All of them are reasonably disturbed by recent human activities.
- Regardless of the option chosen it should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development work commences that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate.
- Due to constraints indicated above it may be possible that certain sites were not identified. In such a case an archaeologist should also be called in to investigate.

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## APPENDIX A

### Definition of terms:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

## APPENDIX B

### Definition of significance:

- Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.
- Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.
- Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period
- Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.
- Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

## APPENDIX C

### **Cultural significance:**

- Low            A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium        Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High            Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

### **Heritage significance:**

- Grade I        Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II        Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III        Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

## APPENDIX D

### Protection of heritage resources:

#### - Formal protection

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – grade I and II

Protected areas - an area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – for a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – listing grades II and III

Heritage areas – areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

#### - General protection

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials